

Application No. 09/902,016

Art Unit: 3627

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant herewith submits formal drawings for review by the Official draftsman and entry into the present application file. Said drawings are set forth on seven (7) sheets and are appended hereto.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-32 stand pending in the application and claims 1-3 and 5-32 stand rejected in the final Office Action while claim 4 stands objected to.

Applicant herewith amends claims 4, 5, 7, 11-13, 15, and 16, cancels claims 1-3 and 17-32 and adds no new claims. Thus following entry of the amendments presented herewith claims 4-16 stand for examination on the merits. Applicant submits only minor amendments intended to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and suggests that said amendments do not raise additional issues or require search of additional or other prior art.

Applicant respectfully requests entry and favorable consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herewith.

Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,497,655 to Linberg et al. (Linberg).

Applicant herewith cancels claims 1-3 and amends claim 5 to depend from allowable claim 4 thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,725,599 to Alt et al. (Alt).

Applicant herewith cancels claims 1-3 and amends claims 7 and 11 to depend from allowable claim 4 thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot. Since claims 8-10 now depend directly or indirectly from amended (independent) allowable claim 4 they too should be allowable over Alt.

Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 12-23 and 25-32 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Alt in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,298,443 to Colligan et al. (Colligan).

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With respect claims 12-16 Applicant herewith amends claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 to directly or indirectly depend from allowable claim 4 thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot. Since Applicant herewith cancels claims 17-23 and 25-32 without prejudice or disclaimer said ground of rejection is thus rendered moot as to said canceled claims.

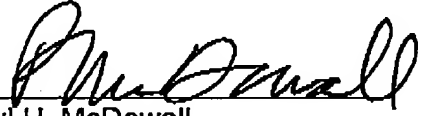
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that all presently pending claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 13-2546. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

16 May '05


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